

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Appl. No. : 09/618,741 | Confirmation No. : |
| Applicant : Thomas M. Hartnett et al. | |
| Filed : July 18, 2000 | |
| T.C./A.U. : 1741 | |
| Examiner : John M. Hoffmann | |
| Docket No. : SURMET-002PUS (formerly 07206-118001) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Office the following:

JP S58-074514;

JP H05-294737;

JP H07-187620;

JP S58-074577;

NORMAN D. CORBIN, Aluminum Oxynitride Spinel; A Review,

Journal of the European Ceramic Society, 1989, Vol 5. No. 3, pp. 143-154; and

JAMES W. MCCAULRY et al. Phase relations and reaction sintering of transparent cubic aluminum oxynitride spinel (ALON),
Journal of the Ceramic Society of America, 1979, Vol. 62, Nos. 9-11. pp 476-479.

We were advised by our Japanese agent that GB 2126568A was the equivalent of JP S58-074514 and JP H05-294737 and therefore GB 2126568A has been listed on the form PTO/SB/08a, enclosed.

We were also advised by our Japanese agent that GB 2188945A was the equivalent of JP S58-074577 and therefore GB 2188945A has been listed on the form PTO/SB/08a, enclosed.

We were advised that the agent does not know of an equivalent to JP H07-187620 but has provided an English Abstract which has been listed on the form PTO/SB/08a, enclosed. However, our Japanese agent provides following information regarding JP H07-187620 (referred to as "citation 5" below:

Our translation of gist of [0026]-[0027] of Citation 5 is as follows.

[0026] Example 1

--- To a reactor which is temperature-controlled at 800 °C by an outer heater, NH₃ and triethylaluminum purified by distillation and carrier nitrogen gas were fed and reacted, an reaction product in a form of fumes was obtained.

[0027]

Thereafter, to a rotary kiln in which a part of vent gas from the reactor is flowed, the aluminum nitride precursor was continuously fed to conduct decarburization at 1200 °C.

Dated: April 21, 2011

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